

UPDATES...

CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

CHILDREN SPONSORED TO DATE: 92
TO SPONSOR A CHILD, GO TO...

<http://www.mehonduras.org/CSP>

Teams hosted by MEH this Spring & Summer:

- Reapers Rain Global Min - Ontario, CA
- NSPC - Ontario, CA
- Playgrounds Unlimited - SC, USA
- Community Bible Church - AR, USA
- Orphan Helpers - VA, US
- North County Christ the King - WA, USA
- River of Life - TX, USA
- Vero Beach Alliance Church - FL, USA
- Gateway - London, ON

WHAT'S UP WITH THE COFFEE?

COFFEEONLINE - SHIPPING CHANGES
COMING SOON!

MANOS DE CAFÉ IS NOW IN THE COFFEE
EXPORT BUSINESS...USA AND CANADA.
INTERESTED? EMAIL ME.

ISSUE 4 | APR - SEPT. | 2008

Westcott's Contact Information

Apdo Postal 20397
Tegucigalpa, M.D.C.
Honduras, Central America

Vonage Phone: 1-519-913-2561
Email: derm_w@yahoo.com

Westcott Newsletter

DAD ...ARE WE THERE YET? ARE WE THERE YET?

"The road is long with many a winding turn, that leads us to who knows where..." A verse from some song from my past that reminds me of the journey we often find ourselves on, as we trust and follow the Lord, with His Grace abounding.

Some much to tell...so little time to tell it...

You know, when the sheep Dolly was cloned, I got to thinking that when they perfect that, I want in! Another me could work! We're at a point in our mission where we would like to have someone who could write about everything that we are involved in and get that information out there. I could supply an opening letter and lots of information. There are many other parts of the mission that deserve to be highlighted for our supporters. We need someone to make that happen. Blogging can be utilized for this need but it still takes time and energy to make it a reality. So, if you have the interest and drive to help us in this regard... PLEASE let me know and we'll get on it.

Tidbits of Highlights...

His Secret Place, as you may have gathered, is a vision that propels me day to day. The most recent development (STEP) in this vision is our plan to host an event called **Mission to Missionaries (M2M)**. We are seriously considering hosting this event next fall in Rocky Harbor, NL. We, the International Alliance for Missions, Inc., are in the process of conducting a nationwide survey among mission sending agencies to determine if this is a need recognized and supported by our peers. There will be more on the outcome of this survey in the months ahead.

Manos de Café is now positioned to export coffee from Honduras. As great as that sounds and for all the effort that has been put into making that a reality, the chances of us actually exporting from Honduras will probably be a rare occasion. During the

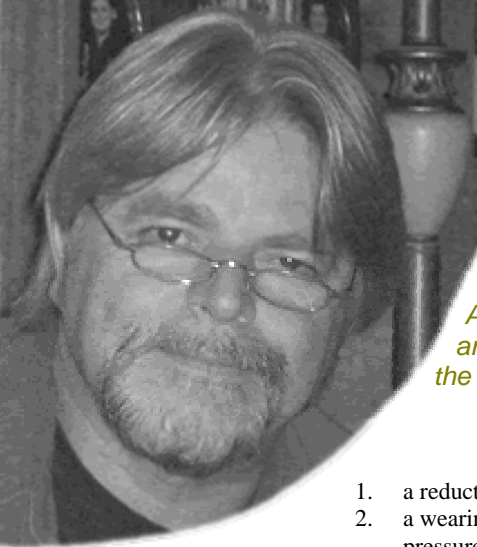
application process, I became aware of the need to have a "plan B". Because of political instability, and also the difficulty of securing consistent quality, I felt the need to secure another supplier, someone outside of Honduras, just in case I needed it. I was surprised and pleased to learn that the roaster we use in Canada for our Fair Trade coffee have recently been stocking Honduran coffee. That means that now we can ship Honduran coffee to anywhere in the USA and Canada. Over the past five years we have built a market among the mission teams visiting us here in Honduras. They have become very fond of our Honduran coffee and now we can continue to quench their thirst all year round as we ship coffee to the various churches, businesses and organizations in North America

FairWay Coffee We had to come up with another socially conscious ideology because we could not secure a reliable supply of Fair Trade Honduran Coffee. The FairWay Coffee program, although it does not necessarily benefit the farmer in the same way as Fair Trade, it has an equal value in the interest of impoverished people. FairWay Coffee benefits the impoverished people of the coffee's country of origin through programs, administered by partnering mission organizations, whose countries greatest national product would not benefit them otherwise.



Derm with Bishop Galvan of the United Methodist Church (UMC) at the Honduras Summit held in St. Louis, Missouri, Sept 18-20. UMC Honduras is one of our partners in our FairWay Coffee with a Mission.

Do you know that we have 18 volunteers working with IAM projects? They are made up of graphic designers, office administrators, legal, accounting, Board members, sales reps and prayer team warriors. Our most recent addition is Sarah Burton, Communications Assistant.



What I'm seeing from my research on burnt-out missionaries...

In this section of our newsletter, I will be giving our readers some insight into my findings on Missionary Attrition as I discover them from my personal observations and various readings taken from two surveys conducted by the World Evangelical Alliance Missions Commission (WEA).

Attrition is:

1. a reduction or decrease in numbers, size, or strength.
2. a wearing down or weakening of resistance, esp. as a result of continuous pressure or harassment.
3. a gradual reduction in work force without firing of personnel, as when workers resign or retire and are not replaced.

CULTURAL ADAPTATION

The fourth contributor to missionary attrition is cultural adaptation. One would think we would have learnt after all these years of experience in cross cultural missions that cookie-cutter Christianity does not work. It did not work with our own aboriginal people in the Western World when the land was first conquered and it does not work in other cultures today. I thought we got that, didn't we? Sometimes, because of our western style of thinking and logic, we think that we know what is best, and the way everyone should think. They should think like us, right? It just makes sense to do it this way. Well no... not all the time. Sure, teaching a local person good health practices or to wear a helmet when riding a bike is a good thing. But it is another matter regarding things that don't really matter in the greater scheme of things, like men urinating at the side of the road or not turning right at a red light, or certain hand gestures.

I remember when I first came to Honduras. I was like a wide-eyed tourist, taking in all the new sights and sounds, the language, the provocative dress style, and also the simple life of the Mayan people. It all was invigorating. Life in the beginning was so surreal and innocent. People were so patient with me as I stumbled over my 12 Spanish words trying to communicate "I am hungry", "please forgive me, I am sorry", or "I'm from Canada". I also sensed the appreciation they had for me because I had left my home to help them in their impoverished condition, especially as it was right after the Mitch hurricane.

Well, things have changed on my part. It has been almost five years now and I have to

tell you that I am guilty, like so many of my missionary brothers and sisters, of harshly judging my fellow Hondurans. Just because things are not done that way back home doesn't make it right for me to have attitude and body language that speaks very loudly to the people God has called me to love and serve. Being a positive example and accepting people where they are is something Jesus resounded in his life here on earth. He never pushed His finger in the nose of the people—well except for the religious—but He loved and listened to them. He helped them arrive at the truth. We are called to do the same. Be an example, not a hindrance.

Fighting the culture and sharpening our differences only cause bad feelings and alienates us from others.

" God has called us to Love and Serve the people. "

When it comes to adapting to the culture of the land the Lord has called us to, we must respectfully accept their way of life, without feeling we are compromising our Christian values. We may learn something new that is better than our western way of life. Fighting against the pricks of cultural differences or not accepting a different way of doing things only stresses the missionary. "Todo me liso", and "manana"... this is the Honduran way of life. Interpretation... everything is totally smooth; I will get to it tomorrow.

Finally, I came to a point in my daily routine that I had to mentally make a note to not complain about the craziness here in Honduras i.e. the taxi drivers. Hondurans taught me what the car horn



was meant for... a stress reliever. Not really. Although they do use the horn a lot. It seems to be connected to the other fellas gas paddle. Seriously, I had to realize that I cannot change the way they drive or any of their ways of life. That is the way they have been doing it for years. So I've learned to chill out, enjoy the fact that the Lord is with me, and the weather is warmer here than back on the Rock, Newfoundland.

Praise & Prayer Requests

As always, our heart is filled with praise and thanksgiving for all who partner with us day by day with your prayers, finances, and words of encouragement. God bless you. We could not do it without each one of you.



- We need more laborers for the mission. i.e. the Child Sponsorship Program, and Manos de Café which is a fundraising project to purchase food and potable water for the children at our Daycare Centers.
- Thanksgiving to the Lord for His continuous provision for us. We recently were blessed with repairs to our car after having an accident. We also were able to pay the cost of repairs to the other person's car. PTL. Thankfully, nobody was hurt in the accident.



Hope (Wish) List

We are still in the expecting mode to receive \$10,000.00 for the branding process of His Secret Place: Mission to Missionaries. Tax Receipt is available.

Viola and I are trusting the Lord to have what we need to be a blessing to our family this coming Christmas, the Lord willing.



Victory Christian Centre
Our sending church